3:Huntingford E-5 (1921-1928)/929 FLA Dorobo FLA

MODERN HUNTERS: SOME ACCOUNT OF THE KÂMÛLÔ-KÂPCHEPKENDI DORÔBO (SIRIKWA) OF KENYA COLONY.

[With Plates XXVI-XXVIII.]

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[With an account of the Physical Features by the Hon. F. L. O'Brien, M.A.]

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Preliminary Note.

This paper is based on information collected in Eastern Nandi (particularly of Kimoiliu and Kâpchepkendi), where this section of the Dorobo live. When visiting this district, I was accompanied by the Hon. F. L. O'Brien, M.A., to whom I am indebted for the account of the Physical Features, which is given on p. 374. My information was obtained through the medium of Nandi—which the Dorobo speak, even among themselves—and without an interpreter, chiefly from Dorobo elders of the Kâpchebarâ age. The Dorobo were told that I wanted to see them by Parkipitany arap Kipenjegan, a former chief, whose acquaintance I made through his son Chesimbo, one of

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

"[illegible] of the Okiek are the dances are very different, a few [illegible]
[illegible] of Okiek were living here and there in the forest -
a fact which even the Dorobo admit - but they were mostly
herders living on a pervious existence and living from the
[illegible] herds, the Dorobo.

"The Dorobo were, like the Okiek, a hunting people, but [illegible]
it would seem that they were much more organised and accustom-
ing to their own territory than they are at the present,
although [illegible] is rapidly changing to hunting rights...

"The Okiek described the Dorobo as the [illegible]
'Owners of the Bush land', and never spoke of them among them-
selves as the Kikoben, which was the name by which they were
known to the Okiek.

"The word Dorobo has been used by Europeans in Kenya to [illegible]
describe the various hunting tribes that inhabit the forest areas
of the Kenya Highlands, and there is no doubt at all that the
name has been used to describe several distinct tribal entities
which anthropologists and linguists would have no difficulty in
distinguishing from each other on the grounds of law and custom
and language. For the purpose of this study we must concern
ourselves only with the tribe called Dorobo by the Europeans, [illegible]
which inhabited the forest land which has been taught by the
Okiek, and the descendants of whom are still living in the
forest on the boundary of Okiek country in the Kipkabi region
and northwards as far as the slopes of the Aberdare mountains.
Today only some two or three hundred individuals are left to [illegible]
represent the Dorobo of this area, and most of them have [illegible]
a greater or less proportion of Okiek blood in their veins, but [illegible]
[illegible] they still retain many customs which are quite different
to those of the Okiek and they still speak among themselves [illegible]
a distinct language of their own, although most if not all of them
also speak Okiek, but with a marked accent.

[illegible]

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